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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for serial port initialization in a storage controller, wherein the storage controller includes a serial port for connection to an external device, the method comprising:  
receiving at least one serial port parameter value for a set of serial port parameters, wherein the at least one serial port parameter value is selected by a user; and  
initializing ~~[[a]] the~~ serial port on the storage controller using the ~~received~~ at least one serial port parameter value, ~~values~~.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving at least one serial port parameter value includes:  
presenting a boot menu to the user, wherein the boot menu includes an option for enabling a serial console mode menu;  
receiving a first user selection to enable the serial console mode menu;  
presenting the serial console mode menu to the user; and  
receiving a second user selection comprising at least one serial port parameter value, wherein the second user selection is made using the serial console mode menu.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving at least one serial port parameter value includes:  
establishing a connection between a host device and the storage controller; and  
receiving the at least one serial port parameter value from the host device.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein receiving at least one serial port parameter value includes:  
authenticating an operator of the host device before receiving the at least one serial port parameter value values from the host device.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of serial port parameters includes at least one of a baud rate, a number of data bits, a number of stop bits, a parity, and a flow control.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of serial port parameters includes baud rate and wherein receiving at least one serial port parameter value includes performing an adaptive baud rate negotiation between the storage controller and ~~[[an]]~~ the external device connected to the storage controller through the serial port.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein performing ~~[[an]]~~ the adaptive baud rate negotiation includes:
- sending a break key sequence from the external device to the storage controller;
  - determining an amount of time between a start bit and a stop bit; and
  - obtaining a baud rate based on the amount of time between the start bit and the stop bit.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein obtaining ~~[[a]]~~ the baud rate based on the amount of time includes performing a look-up of the baud rate in a look-up table.
9. (Previously Presented) A method of performing an adaptive baud rate negotiation for serial port initialization in a storage controller, wherein the storage controller includes a serial port for connection to an external device, the method comprising:
- sending a break key sequence from the external device to the storage controller;
  - determining an amount of time between a start bit and a stop bit;
  - obtaining a first baud rate based on the amount of time; and
  - setting a second baud rate for the serial port based on the first baud rate.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein obtaining ~~[[a]]~~ the first baud rate based on the amount of time includes performing a look-up of the first baud rate in a look-up table.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising resending the break key sequence responsive to a timeout condition.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising repeating the sending, determining, and obtaining steps until a timer expires.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage network, comprising:  
a storage system;  
a storage controller, wherein the storage controller provides access to the storage system and wherein the storage controller has a serial port; and  
an external device, electrically coupled to the storage controller through the serial port,  
wherein the storage controller receives at least one serial port parameter value for a set of serial port parameters and initializes the serial port using the received at least one serial port parameter value, ~~values~~, wherein the at least one serial port parameter value is selected by a user.
14. (Currently Amended) The storage network of claim 13, wherein the storage controller receives the at least one serial port parameter value by performing the steps of:  
presenting a boot menu to the user, wherein the boot menu includes an option for enabling a serial console mode menu;  
receiving a first user selection to enable the serial console mode menu;  
presenting the serial console mode menu to the user; and  
receiving a second user selection comprising at least one serial port parameter value, wherein the second user selection is made using the serial console mode menu.
15. (Original) The storage network of claim 13, further comprising:  
a host device, electrically coupled to the storage controller,  
wherein the storage controller receives the at least one serial port parameter value from the host device.
16. (Currently Amended) The storage network of claim 15, wherein the storage controller has a hard-coded password for authenticating an operator of the host device before receiving the at least one serial port parameter value values from the host device.
17. (Original) The storage network of claim 13, wherein the set of serial port parameters includes at least one of a baud rate, a number of data bits, a number of stop bits, a parity, and a flow control.
18. (Original) The storage network of claim 13, wherein the set of serial port parameters includes baud rate and wherein the external device performs an adaptive baud rate negotiation between the storage controller and the external device.

19. (Currently Amended) The storage network of claim 18, wherein the external device performs ~~[[an]] the~~ adaptive baud rate negotiation by sending a break key sequence from the external device to the storage controller, determining an amount of time between a start bit and a stop bit, and obtaining a baud rate based on the amount of time.

20. (Currently Amended) The storage network of claim 19, wherein the external device obtains ~~[[a]] the~~ baud rate based on the amount of time by performing a look-up of the baud rate in a look-up table.